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Eight months had scarcely passed away after leaving his mother, till he was court-martialled and sentenced to be shot. He had been placed under a drinking captain, who had invited him to drink with him. For awhile, he steadily refused, saying, "I have promised my mother that I will never drink." After a time it became evident that the vindictive-spirited captain resented his refusal to drink with him as an insult. One of the young soldier's comrades said to him, "Harry, you are getting out with your captain, you had better not offend him or it will be worse for you." Finding that he was losing his captain's favor, Harry consulted a lady at whose house he sometimes visited, who gave him this advice, after hearing the story of his promise to his mother and the captain's invitation to him to drink: "Harry, if your mother knew all the circumstances, she would absolve you from your promise. You know you need not drink to excess, but just take a glass with the captain, if he invites you again, to show good-fellowship." Poor Harry followed the advice, and it was evident that he had inherited his father's weakness. No sooner had he tasted the intoxicating draught than he craved for more, and, under its influence, soon lost all self-control, and rapidly ran his down-hill career, until, after frequent acts of insubordination and drunkenness, he one day knocked his captain down, was tried by court-martial, and sentenced to be shot. While I was listening to this sad story, unusual sights and sounds attracted my attention. I heard the approaching solemn death march of a company of soldiers, their muffled drums beating, who came and arranged themselves on one side of a square, another occupied a second side, and another a third side, and with the third in a wagon, seated upon his own coffin, a common pine box, was young Harry.

The young soldier was led to a rising knoll, and twelve soldiers placed in front, armed with guns, taken up indiscriminately, six of which were loaded with bullets and six with blank cartridges, that they might not know who fired the fatal shots. I entreated the officer commanding to delay the execution of the sentence for twenty-four hours, that I might have time to hasten to Washington and report the case to our noble President, Abraham Lincoln. The officer refused to grant my request, and would not even allow me to speak to the prisoner, being urged on by the resentful captain, who had caused all poor Harry's troubles, to the immediate execution of the sentence. The General remarked that there had been so much drunkenness and insubordination among the soldiers, that they must make an example of Harry. Finding that I could not help him, I hastened away, but did not get out of hearing until the signal was given, and the shots fired that took away that young man's life; and Harry fell covered with wounds inflicted by his own brothers-in-arms. . . . I went to Washington shortly after, and represented the case with several others to the Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton. That kind-hearted gentleman expressed much regret that such a circumstance should have transpired, "It is one of the terrible exigencies of war, and such things will happen in the best regulated armies."

My heart was lifted with the earnest petition, and I wished that all mothers and ministers of the Gospel would unite in the same—

"Oh! hasten, great Father, the blest consummation,  
When nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
When war shall no more be the Christian's vocation,  
When the spear shall be shivered, and broken the bow."

FROM ELIZABETH COMSTOCK'S MEMOIRS.

## BELGIUM AND INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.

Speech of Mr. Beernaert at the Interparliamentary Conference at Buda-Pesth.

At its meeting last year at Brussels, the Interparliamentary Conference was so kind as to nominate me as its president. I eagerly take advantage of the present opportunity to thank you anew, and this time in person, for this great honor which I appreciated very deeply. You know that, to my great regret, the condition of my health kept me away from Brussels. My place was taken by Chevalier Descamps. It is needless for me to recall to you the distinction with which he accomplished his task, and you have all appreciated as much as I the remarkable work with which he has since crowned his presidency. The Memorial to the powers on the organization of international arbitration has brought its author the felicitations of the European press of all parties, and with the report of Mr. Stanhope, it may be said that all the elements of the question which constitute our *raison d'être* there find themselves set forth in brief both from the standpoint of history and from that of principle. These important documents have been sent to the powers, and they afford for our deliberations this year an excellent and thoroughly practical basis.

I wish, gentlemen, to give you an account, so far as concerns Belgium, of some facts which have taken place since our meeting in 1895.

The sympathy of our country with international arbitration has never been doubted. This sympathy is in some sense the necessary outcome of the neutrality which constitutes the axis of the laws of its existence, which it has always scrupulously respected. Belgium has more than once proved its sympathy by its acts, some of which I may be permitted to recall, all the more because they date from a period when, as Chevalier Descamps has just reminded you, I had the dangerous honor of being at the head of affairs.

In 1884 we inserted an arbitral clause in a treaty with Venezuela, and there is a similar agreement in our treaty of the 5th of March, 1887, with the Republic of Ecuador.

About the same time we took an earnest and active part in the negotiations which ended in the organization of the great international institutions of the Universal Postal Union and the Railroad Transportation Union. You know that the acts which established these (the 14th of October, 1890, and the 4th of July, 1891), contain a provision for recourse to arbitration, in terms which leave nothing to be desired.

On ground essentially political, which concerned us in a special way, the same result was brought about at the Conference of Berlin, in February, 1885, for the regulation of affairs in Africa; and the young Congo State, founded at that time under our auspices, has of its own accord inserted an arbitral clause in the international agreements which it has since made, notably in its treaty with Switzerland in 1889.

Our present ministry holds views of the same kind, and arbitral clauses have been inserted in our treaties of 1894 with the Orange Free State, and of 1895 with Greece, Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

More recently still we made a new effort in the same

direction. During negotiations with Japan for the conclusion of a treaty of commerce, Belgium asked to have inserted in it a clause providing for recourse to arbitration. But Japan was not willing to depart from the form of her international treaties concluded with other countries, notably with Germany, and thus the provision for arbitration was set aside, contrary to the wish of our country.

You see, gentlemen, that I was right in saying to you that our sympathy for international arbitration is not only lively and persistent, but, which is rarer and more profitable, that it is also active. It remains for our government to take its stand squarely in favor of the order of ideas indicated by the previous deliberations of the Inter-parliamentary Conference, whose formula was so clearly set forth in the resolutions drawn up at Brussels.

Soon after the close of our Conference in 1895, one of the members of the Chamber, Mr. Lorand, announced to Mr. de Burlet, then Minister of Foreign Affairs, his intention to interpellate him on this subject at the opening of the following session, and Mr. de Burlet accepted this interpellation in a most encouraging way. But unfortunately a serious malady compelled him to resign his office and to quit political life. His successor, Mr. de Favereau, expressed the wish to have the interpellation put off until he should have had time to get acquainted with the affairs of his department. The interpellation will take place, I think, at the opening of the next legislative session. I do not think that I shall go too far in saying that our Conference may count in advance upon a favorable response from Brussels.

But in matters of this kind, the good will of a little country like ours is of little importance. It is rather upon you, gentlemen, the Deputies of the great European nations, met here in such large numbers, that the duty devolves of securing the realization of the most important steps of progress of which the end of the Nineteenth Century could boast. This century has seen much accomplished, but its sun will set on many an unsolved enigma.

#### THE RECRUDESCENCE OF SAVAGERY.

The *Manchester Guardian*, commenting on the autumnal meeting of the London Peace Society on November 3rd, says:

"It is one of our English mysteries that bodies like the Peace Society should be regarded by two Englishmen out of three with something like a smile, and that they should be able to enlist as speakers so few of the great ones of the earth—no bishops, no eminent philosophers or men of letters, and no great statesmen. The common view is that members of Peace Societies are amiable enthusiasts who hope and try for something that will never be, and that one does not show the virility of one's mind and the hardness of one's common sense unless one dismisses their aims as Utopian. This belief, or rather custom, is almost as firmly established now as the custom, fashionable between 1861 and 1864, of accepting any anecdote of Lincoln's coarseness and the general brutality and lowness of the Northern leaders, or the earlier custom, common to all countries at one time or another, of assuming that without the institution of slavery, human society would be crippled.

"As a matter of fact, the Peace Society is only a body of men who see clearly and say loudly that civilized coun-

tries should make a point of hastening the progress of civilization, as far as they can, on the road which civilization has followed since it began. To induce men to abandon fighting, as the chief or the only business of their lives, and as the most reputable way of settling their disputes, has been the most distinct of all the achievements of civilization. Mommsen says that in the ancient world one had to be either the hammer or the anvil. Macaulay described an age a little later as a time when men were divisible into beasts of burden and beasts of prey. One has only to read a few pages of Froissart to learn how entirely satisfactory the old ideal still was to the public opinion of his time; that is to say, to a public opinion directed by the beasts of prey.

"We have at length arrived at such a pitch of humane feeling that warfare for warfare's sake is not held to be respectable anywhere but among the more martial of the native African tribes, and a sovereign who, like Shakespeare's Henry IV., gave it out as a maxim of policy 'to busy giddy minds with foreign quarrels' would have some very hard things said, if not done, to him in several countries of Europe.

"All this progress is due to the working in people's minds of just those ideas to which members of Peace Societies still persist in giving expression, in a world which is fortunately no longer the world of Frederick the Great, or Louis XIV., but which has not left that world so far behind it as it sometimes thinks.

"On the whole, we should say that both England and America have become decidedly more Jingo in feeling during the last few years. It would not matter so much if the distemper were a mere popular fever, for then it would run its short and severe course, like other fevers, and be gone. But in recent years there have been persistent efforts on the part of clever manipulators of phrases, and, to a certain extent, of ideas, to give a show of philosophical basis to what is really a recrudescence of savagery.

"When France and Germany were jockeyed into a war arranged by politicians, the fact was dressed up by able theorists in handsome Hegelian phrases about the growth of a nation to self-consciousness, till an almost epic air was given to an event compounded of a great folly and a great crime.

"Now that our own Governments have for twelve years been frantically laying hands, as Lord Rosebery says, on every patch of land which its native owners could not keep from us, and have jeopardised our reputation and perhaps our safety by exercising an equivocal title to the continued occupation of Egypt, there have arisen whole schools of taking writers to show that we are fulfilling the divine destiny of the world by pocketing whatever we think worth having.

"Though not an Englishman, Captain Mahan, the authority on sea power, has been good enough, as a kind of cosmopolitan Jingo, to frame a theory which will justify anything. Captain Mahan, a little time ago, gave it as his ruling that to discuss the morality of our occupation of Egypt was as little to the point as to discuss 'the morality of an earthquake.' The notion is, of course, common enough in England, but it is not often formulated so pointedly. To the Jingo theorist of this school any act of national aggression stands excused, and better than excused, if only it be the action of a superior against an inferior race or political organism.